

OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB BULLETIN

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South African Editors June 13



Allister Sparks



Rex Gibson

Two Johannesburg editors who led in breaking the world-famous "Muldergate" story in South Africa will address a special "Shop Talk" luncheon at the new OPC headquarters (The Chemists Club), 52 E. 41st St., at 12 Noon, Wednesday, June 13th.

They are Rex Gibson of the *Sunday Express* and Allister Sparks of the *Rand Daily Mail*, who have been invited by "Shop Talk" Co-Chairs Larry Stessin and Gloria Zukerman to discuss their newspapers' role in the story and its effect on freedom of the press to investigate and publish.

The expose, which has become an international sensation, centers on alleged massive misuse of governmental power, akin to the Watergate scandal, in the South African Government's Information Department while headed by Dr. Cornelius Mulder.

Gibson's *Sunday Express*, whose circulation is some 100,000, broke the story with two scoops by investigative reporter Kitt Katzin, whom Washington *Post* editor Ben Bradlee compares to his former Woodward-Bernstein team of Watergate fame. The first scoop, in Spring of last year, concerned an alleged vacation trip by Information Department officials to the Seychelles at public expense; the second, last November, reported the Government was allegedly funding a pro-apartheid, pro-Government paper in Johannesburg, *The Citizen*.

Sparks' *Rand Daily Mail* (circulation some 150,000) then followed up with four days of exposes by his top police reporter.

Secret projects uncovered to date include the alleged funneling of \$35 million into *The Citizen*; alleged attempts to buy control of the *Washington Star* in the U.S., *L'Express* of Paris, *The Observer* and *The Guardian* of London, and other publications; and alleged interference in at least two U.S. Senate races, in which John Tunney of California and Dick Clark of Iowa —

(Continued on page 3)

OPC Sale Set

Before the OPC vacates its quarters in the Biltmore on May 29, several miscellaneous lounge and restaurant items will be sold — with OPC members receiving preference as purchasers on a best-offer basis.

All office equipment and OPC memorabilia are being moved to the club's new quarters in the Chemists Club and will not be sold. However, these mementos of the club's "Time-Life and Biltmore" periods will not be moved and must be sold:

- **The OPC bar:** 25 feet long. It has five stainless steel sinks, matching storage cabinet with refrigerator, decking, and 12 black-upholstered bar stools. All are in top condition.

- **Eight stuffed banquettes** (armless sofas), first purchased for the club's quarters at the Time-Life Building and not used by us at the Biltmore: Three 4 feet long, three 5 feet, one 9 feet, and one 4-foot L-shaped.

- **Two NCR cash registers**, one double drawer, one single.

(Continued on page 3)

AWARDS DINNER

A reminder — do it now! If you haven't bought your tickets for the May 24 awards/anniversary dinner at the Waldorf Astoria, time is running out. To review, here's the program:

Principal speaker — General Alexander Haig, U.S. commander of NATO forces in Europe.

Awards emcee — Chuck Scarborough, news anchorman on NBC.

Honorary chairman — Lowell Thomas, with a prestigious dinner committee composed of presidents and chairmen of the nation's leading newspapers, wire services, magazines and broadcasters.

Reception, 7:30 p.m., Gold Room; dinner, 8:15 p.m., the Starlight Roof. Black tie.

Tickets — \$45 each for OPC members and one guest; additional tickets \$75 each. Reservations may be made for tables of ten or individual seating.

Reservations by phone or check to Mary Novick, OPC at the Biltmore, 687-2430. But seating is limited, so hurry.

ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting took place April 30 at the Club's old headquarters at the Hotel Biltmore in New York City. In reviewing the past year, OPC president *Henry Gellermann* told the members that while the club is still facing certain financial and operational problems, it has been a year which changed the club "from an atmosphere of extinction to an era of progress and future."

"There has been a marked change within our membership ranks," Gellermann stated "and most of the credit belongs to hard working committees and individuals who gave unsparing of their time." He praised the efforts of Treasurer *Anita Berke Diamant*, the shoptalk and lecture activities of *Larry Stessin* and *Gloria Zukermann*, *Harry Rand's* activities on the membership committee, *John Guenther* for having upgraded the *Bulletin* into a lively bi-weekly covering the club's programs and activities and increased coverage from abroad, and *George Burns* "for helping in many areas."

One of the milestones in the club's history was the move into new quarters which the search committee under *Al Wall*, *Ed Cunningham* and others brought to the attention of the club's Executive Committee. The details of the lease negotiated by President Gellermann were ironed out late in February and an agreement was signed March 1, 1979. In his report to membership, Gellermann said, by and large the members are happy with the location, the service and quality of food, and the availability of rooms at reasonable prices for out-of-town members.

Work remains to be done, according to Gellermann "to make the marriage work" and "fit our meeting and entertainment requirements into the logistics of our new landlord." At an earlier board meeting, it was voted to enlarge the House Committee to give it more authority and bargaining flexibility.

Our old quarters will close down on May 29, and OPC board member *Al Balk* has taken charge of moving our furniture and memorabilia to our new premises.

Plans for the 40th anniversary dinner were briefly reviewed for the members. Switching to committee reports, and doubling as chairman of the Freedom of the Press committee, Gellermann reported a sharp increase of activities in that important area. The club has strongly and forcefully intervened on behalf of newsmen and newswomen whose freedom of action as well as freedom of movement came into jeopardy.

Among the more important cases Gellermann cited:



Henry Gellermann
— *Wagner International photo*

- Protest to Soviet Government on behalf of *N.Y. Times* reporter *Craig Whitney* and *Baltimore Sun* reporter *Harold Piper* stationed in Moscow.

- OPC meeting voicing concern with outcome of UNESCO meeting in Paris.

- Unveiling of Plaque on OPC premises listing victims of Human Rights violations and non-compliance with Helsinki Agreement.

- Sharply denounced arrest and conviction of *Myron Farber*, reporter for *The New York Times*.

- Contributed \$500. to Washington Reporters Defense Fund from Overseas Press Club Foundation.

- Contributed \$50. to Defense Fund of Queens woman reporter held in contempt for refusing to disclose source of information.

- Intervened with South Korean Embassy in Washington on behalf of photo journalist arrested in Pusan and held for weeks incommunicado (request of Tokyo Correspondents Club).

- Protested to Polish Embassy in Washington DC and directly to Warsaw for imposing \$250. fee on foreign correspondents assigned to cover Pope's visit.

Gellermann also announced the appointment of *Joe Newman* as Washington representative of the Freedom of the Press Committee.

On agenda for 1979/80 are the publication of a new membership directory which may carry advertising. The 1975 edition is outdated and obsolete. The proposed launching of a membership drive also is scheduled later in the year.

Making individual reports for the committees were *Anita Berke Diamant*, who stated that "we will reassess the kind of programs we will be having in

Mr. Henry Gellermann
President
Overseas Press Club
New York, N.Y.

Dear Henry:

Several assignments, at home and abroad, have interfered with my writing to congratulate you on moving the OPC into the Chemists Club. To you, particularly, I send appreciation and thanks; and to those who assisted you, my thanks, too.

It is good to see the OPC flag flying in the breeze of the new quarters in East 41st Street, so close to the old building on 39th Street where we had so many good years; and to the bigger one at 40th Street where we had a time of both good and bad years.

I believe we shall all profit from the new move, and that the arrangements you made and the quarters and amenities now provided for members will be used and appreciated by everyone for years to come.

My special thanks to you; and my congratulations and compliments as well on the brilliant year you have given OPC as its 1978/79 president. The membership is indeed in your debt.

Sincerely yours,
(Mrs.) *Irene Corbally Kuhn*
Founder Member

Everything not being moved to our new quarters must go — best offer takes:

- OPC bar — 25' long, w 5 stainless steel sinks; matching storage cabinet with refrigerator; decking; 12 black-upholstered swivel bar stools.

All top condition

- 8 stuffed banquettes (armless sofas) — three 4', three 5', one 9', one 4' L-shaped. All salmon-color plastic upholstered, top condition

- 17 rstnt tables — soft tops, 4-place size

- 1 rstnt captain's table — soft top, round

Best offer May 15-21 takes — cash only. FOB at OPC.

Call Mary Novick, 687-2430.

our new quarters based primarily upon the facilities available to us... but which also seem to appeal to our members both in the realm of serious thought and entertainment"; *Gloria Zukerman* of Shoptalk, who promised a series of provocative speakers similar to those produced in the past; and *Harry Rand*, in charge of the membership committee, who reported that we presently have over 1300 members and provided some details on a membership drive planned this year.

After a few brief questions and answers the meeting was advised of the election results and adjourned to the bar.

Up-and-coming

Friday, May 18, 5:30 p.m. — Jazz nite, with trumpeter Hank Doughty and his "Pioneers of Jazz" big band of eighteen musicians, Ray Abrams, co-leader and arranger. Free to OPC members; seating on first-come basis; at the Biltmore; cash bar.

Thursday, May 24 — Annual awards dinner and OPC fortieth anniversary dinner (combined event), with Gen. Alexander M. Haig, Jr., NATO commander, as our principal speaker. Black tie; at the Waldorf Astoria. Reception 7:30, dinner 8:15 p.m.

Tuesday, May 29 — the Club offices move from the Biltmore Hotel to the Chemists' Club, 52 East 41st Street, ending our seven-year stay on 43rd Street. *Ave atque vale.*

Wednesday, June 13, 12 Noon — "Shop Talk" luncheon with Rex Gibson, editor, *Johannesburg Sunday Express*, and Allister Sparks, editor, *Rand Daily Mail*, reporting on "Muldergate", the South African political expose. At the OPC Chemists' Club headquarters; cocktails at noon, luncheon at 12:30 p.m. Open to members and guests; reservations requested (Mary Novick, 687-2430).

OPC SALE

(Continued from page 1)

• **Seventeen square and one round (captain's) restaurant tables** (but not chairs, which belong to the Biltmore).

All sales are on a best-offer cash basis FOB at the Biltmore, with bids scheduled to close Monday, May 21. Get a souvenir of this era of the Club's history. Call Mary Novick at 687-2430.

Following are results of voting for new members of the Board of Governors, as certified by the Elections Committee:

ACTIVE

Russell Tornabene	232 votes
Robert Kleinman	221
Harry Rand	221
Ruth Biemiller	202
Albert Wall	198
Howard Kany	197
Roy Rowan	189

ASSOCIATE

Gloria Watson	58
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Alternates are:

ACTIVE

Kenneth Giniger	180
Alfred Balk	172
James Hanchett	135
Robert Sheridan	127

ASSOCIATE

David Fluhrer	43
Norman Schorr	42

HOTCHNER TALKS

The first Shop Talk at the OPC's new headquarters, April 24, was held in the spacious lounge of the Chemists Club.

Guest speaker was OPC member-author *A. E. Hotchner* (Hotch, as he is known to friends at the Club). The subject was his new best-selling biography of superstar Sophia Loren, now in its 13th printing.

Hotchner is the author of three biographies of superstars. The first was *Hemingway*, a close friend, and it was from the shared experiences of 14 years that the book came into being. That, he said, is one kind of biography, where the subject is a close friend and the writing comes out of intimate knowledge of the subject.

The books on Doris Day and Sophia Loren followed and represent a different kind of biographical approach, that of delving deep into the lives of living people. Hotchner quoted Emerson on the writing of autobiographies, "If only a man knew how to choose among what he calls his experiences, and how to record truth truly, he could write a book about himself, but mostly, he can't."

Hotchner concurs. "If we examine our lives," he said, "the tendency is to put down everything that's happened, or to leave out what is unpleasant, which distorts, or to change what happened through the filter of memory, to our advantage."

At the beginning with Doris Day and Sophia Loren, for a couple of weeks he had to hear the legend. "After that, you have to come to an understanding with them and yourself," he said, "that all that has to be discarded. You have to start all over, and that's difficult."

Originally, he said no to Doris Day's request to write her biography. "I had

(Continued on page 4)

SOUTH AFRICA

(Continued from page 1)

regarded as unfriendly to South Africa — were unseated.

Three high-level resignations have occurred so far, including those of Mulder — who was regarded as heir-apparent as Prime Minister — and the head of the Bureau of State Security (BOSS). A "crackdown" on the press has been threatened, and Sparks has been ordered to court three times to oppose prior restraint actions against his paper, but so far no paper has been shut down.

Sparks and Gibson will be in the U.S. to accept jointly the International Editor of the Year award from *Atlas World Press Review* in New York next month.

— Al Balk

PLACEMENT

Editorial assistant for religious publication with knowledge of shorthand, galleys, proofs. Start: \$230 a week with ample refunds on in-house allowances.

Production assistant on energy-growth publication: \$12,000 to \$15,000.

Production manager on noted specialty publication. Start: \$14,000 to \$18,000.

For further information, ask Laura Sands (OPC member and newest enthusiast for Chemists Club) at the Irene Cohen Personnel Agency, 475 Fifth Ave., 725-1666. Fees paid by employer.

Helen Alpert
Placement Chairperson

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OPC BULLETIN

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FROM THE CLUBS

HONG KONG — Two wire service reporters have arrived in Peking to become the first American newsmen to take up residence in China in 30 years.

John Roderick of the Associated Press and Robert Crabbe of United Press International flew on the same commercial airliner from Tokyo to Peking March 28 to establish the first U.S. news bureau in China since the 1949 Communist revolution.

An increasing number of American reporters and photographers have been allowed to visit China on special assignments in recent years, but UPI and AP received the first resident permits.

Crabbe and Roderick set up their bureaus in two-room suites in the Peking Hotel because of a shortage of office accommodations in the Chinese capital. They will be joined in a few weeks by Victoria Graham from AP New York and Aline Mosby from UPI Paris. China issued resident visas to two reporters from each agency although they applied for three each.

Both Crabbe and Roderick have been reporting China developments from their previous bases in Tokyo for several years.

At least two American newspapers probably will receive permission to station reporters in Peking later this spring as a result of the normalization of diplomatic relations between the United States and China.

Several other U.S. newspapers, new magazines and television networks also have applied to open offices in China.

The Americans are joining a large Peking foreign press corps which includes journalists from Britain, West Germany, France, Japan, Italy and Eastern Europe.

In Tokyo, editors from several U.S. and Japanese newspapers attended the 6th Japan-United States Editors Conference to discuss mutual economic and political problems.

The three-day seminar dealt particularly with America's trade deficit with Japan, about a \$12 billion deficit last year and an \$8 billion deficit in 1977, worst deficits between any two nations in history.

U.S. participants in the conference were George Chaplin, editor-in-chief *Honolulu Advertiser*; Bill Hosokawa, editor of the editorial page, *The Denver Post*; Keith Fuller, president of AP; Albert Kaff, Asia vice president of UPI; David Laventhol, publisher, *Newsday*; Robert Wills, editor, *Milwaukee Sentinel*; James Vesely, feature

editor, *Detroit News*, and George Gruener, managing editor, *Fresno Bee*.

Chairman of the Japanese panel was Yasuo Takeyama, editor-in-chief of the *Nihon Keizai Shimbun* (Japan Economic Newspaper).

Wilfred Burchett, the Australian journalist who reported from North Korea and North Vietnam during wars in those areas, spent a week visiting old friends in Hong Kong before flying on to Hanoi for a one-month tour of Vietnam, Kampuchea (Cambodia) and Laos. Burchett lives in France.

Agence France Presse maintains a bureau in Hanoi, but American newsmen have not been allowed to establish residence in Indochina since the 1975 U.S. military and diplomatic departure from the region — *Al Kaff*

HOUSE FOR SALE

House for sale Westbury, Long Island, 25 miles from NYC. 3 bedrooms, brick, split, large livingroom, den, bright kitchen with all appliances, many extras. Grounds professionally kept. Beautiful area. Excellent condition. Asking \$60,000. 516-334-4507.

Henry Gellermann, president of the Overseas Press Club, has denounced the Polish government's plan to tax non-Polish journalists who will be covering Pope Paul II's June 2-10 visit to his native land. The government plans to impose a \$350 "accreditation tax" on foreign reporters assigned to cover the historic visit.

"While we believe that all journalists should pay their own way," Gellermann said, "such a tax is discriminatory and unfair. Governments have no right to levy a tax on the right to gather information." The tax was later rescinded.

SOPHIA LOREN

(Continued from page 3)

this vision of this happy-go-lucky millionaire lady who had freckles and a good time all her life, and I thought to myself, what in the world would anybody want to find out about her? Then she began to tell me the overpowering, fascinating story of who she really was."

When he first began to interview her they met in the same room every day at the same time. "She sat upright in the chair and very brightly gave the answers to the questions. We went into questions more and more, day after day, and she was no longer sitting upright. She got lower and lower in the chair — she was virtually on her spine, and she said, 'My God, I'm in analysis.'"

Hotchner feels that Sophia Loren is a classic example of the survivor who pulled herself up by her bootstraps and elevated herself to the position not only of a great movie actress but a really phenomenal human being. He warned her that a biography required relentless dipping into the past, and was she prepared for that?

She replied, "I've worked hard for everything in my life. Nothing has come easily to me. All the things I've really wanted in my life required desperate struggle. To survive, I lived in a slum, survived starvation, the war, destruction of a little house I had, and then started a career under impossible odds. But when I want something, I develop a singleness of mind and physical strength that carries me through pestilence and fire."

How long did it take to write the book about Sophia Loren's life? Hotchner said, "Two and a half-hours every morning in the living room of her apartment for five months. The writing took two years." — *Rosalind Moore*

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